

Michael C. Cook
President and CEO

March 9, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554


Re: CSR-8126, ACM *et al*, MB Docket No. 09-13

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Howard Brown Health Center urges the FCC to grant this Petition to protect public, education and government (PEG) Access. These local, noncommercial channels that are expressly devoted to serving the public. In Chicago, Howard Brown uses Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV) as an important means to reach viewers in need of our services. This petition details ways in which AT&T's U-Verse system places PEG channels at a disadvantage with inferior technology in comparison to other channels on its system. For our organization, that means losing the connection with local viewers that enables us to extend our services to the community via television.

Howard Brown offers educational programming related to HIV/STD services on local PEG channels to residents of Chicago. Our program allows viewers to call in with questions about HIV/STDs, and also enables our staff to provide important messages to the community about current trends in the epidemic. Further, we are able to promote our prevention and testing programs to ensure that persons at risk have access to desperately needed services in the area.

Our programming needs to be easily accessible to viewers, not placed in an inferior format that viewers will have difficulty finding and using. Fair policies and regulations must prevent discriminatory practices like this, particularly given the vast resources and capabilities of large companies like AT&T. As one of our Chicago educators said in addressing the problems with AT&T's U-Verse PEG product, "out of sight can mean out of mind."



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We urge you to act in the public interest by decisively granting this petition.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Cook
President and CEO

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